

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A sinker unit of a weft knitting machine comprising a plurality of sinkers provided together with a knitting needle at a tip side of a needle bed disposed so as to face a knitted fabric knitting region, wherein in each of the sinkers a tip portion including a portion for pressing a knitted loop can be pivotally displaced with a vicinity of a tip side on one of surfaces of the needle bed set to be a support point and moved forward and backward with respect to the knitted fabric knitting region, and a tip portion of each of the sinkers is moved forward into the knitted fabric knitting region owing to energization of a spring, and

wherein the tip portion of each of the sinkers has an abutment portion in a position placed apart from the knitted fabric knitting region, with respect to the portion for pressing the knitted loop,

the sinker unit comprising:

a stopper provided on another surface of the needle bed and abutting on an abutment portion in the tip portion of each of the sinkers moved forward into the knitted fabric knitting region; and

a position adjusting mechanism for adjusting a position to move the stopper forward and backward with respect to the knitted fabric knitting region.

2. (Original) The sinker unit of claim 1, wherein the stopper is formed like a band extending over a whole width of the needle bed which faces the knitted fabric knitting region.

3. (Original) The sinker unit of claim 2, wherein the position adjusting mechanism includes a cam for guiding the band-shaped stopper to be moved forward and backward with respect to the knitted fabric knitting region.

4. (Original) The sinker unit of claim 2, wherein the position adjusting mechanism moves the band-shaped stopper forward and backward with respect to the knitted fabric knitting region with the band-shaped stopper to be one of sides of a link.

5. (Currently Amended) The sinker unit of claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the position adjusting mechanism includes a driving source for driving the stopper to move forward and backward.

6. (New) The sinker unit of claim 4, wherein the position adjusting mechanism includes a driving source for driving the stopper to move forward and backward.